

## ROCKS AND REEFS.

The Political Ship is Very Hard to Steer.

And Its Course Zigzag Thinks Pilot Grover.

PAINFULLY SLOW.

Cleveland Moves Like a Glacier Think Congressmen.

WANTROBES, D. C., Feb. 22.—[Special.] Every one in and out of congress admits that the recent debate on Blane's latest silver bill was decidedly dull and uninteresting. It slumbered on from day to day because there was no good way to stop it. Mr. Blane did not want his close debate till he had a quorum of his supporters present, and there were generally not less than a hundred members. A western member said it was something like the sermon of the tedious old preacher in the story, who "set his mouth to going and went off and left it running."

On two or three days there were at the opening of the discussion hardly more than enough members present to organize the committee of the whole and give the half acre appearance of interest, and despite the little spirit of the opposing members at each other and the few real witnesses the affair was entirely dead.

Indeed, says a very weary Illinois member, "Mr. Blane is hardly the man to lead and control such a discussion." He is not so dimly tempered even as he once was and seems to have lost the capacity to think up bills if it fits him. Instead of it, F. Blane's bill should be voted down, for it has already been succeeded in disturbing his temper several times during this debate. One thing, however, is disconcerted. This house is certainly as strong for more silver as it ever was, and probably stronger.

A Purdy Personal Policy.

In the dead calm which followed the conclusion of debate on the tariff the members had time to look after appointments, and there is sufficient complaint that Mr. Blane's bill is shown and, as they all know, very peculiar in his method of procedure.

"Don't know," says Mr. Robertson of Louisiana, "whether to call it his policy or his impulsive or temerity lack of policy. In fact, I don't think he really has any policy. His practice is the plain. For a day or so he wants to take a high heroic plane of extra moral and social service reform. Then he yields to the dictates of personal friends, and next he gets vexed at some congressman and goes back to the old system.

Of course he means to do the square thing, but it is plain that he hasn't settled down to any well-defined policy. Sometimes he just takes a liking to the man who is an abolitionist and appends him offhand, and sometimes when he has exhausted all the other policies he consults a congressman. Even after doing this and having the congressman call at his own request, he often goes directly contrary to the latter's wishes and for various reasons. Sometimes he seems to like better than the congressman's friend, and sometimes a member or a senator's sister does something he does not like.

In short, while making a desperate effort to adopt the supposed new system, he gets the best of the old system so justified in itself that it gives his whole course a curiously erratic and inconsistent appearance. In fact, it makes it in the last analysis a purely personal Cleveland policy.

All or Nothing.

Another Mississippian counsels all this and more. "In spite of the larger states one member can do more than all the others and the senators put together. In our state it is Tom Cutchings. One man can break it. Cleveland to appoint a certain man postmaster and said, 'I can if I desire, get the endorsement of the whole delegation, including both senators.' 'Oh, no,' said Mr. Cleveland, 'that isn't necessary. The endorsement of Mr. Cutchings will do.' The member was of course indignant that his own man had to have the endorsement of a man from another district, but just the same, it made the appointment go."

General Money laughingly says that he is now free from all trouble on the subject. He has no influence whatever and can't get any appointments, and all his constituents know it. Therefore they don't bother him. "And that's the way it ought to be," he adds. "Either the representative ought to have all the justification in his district and be held responsible for the character of the apportionments, or he ought to have no influence whatever, and his constituents should be made to know that fact thoroughly."

The story goes that John Allen of the Toledo district, when told by the president that he could secure an appointment by the endorsement of Mr. Cutchings, retired indignantly, tore up the papers and informed his constituents that, so far as appointments go, he is no longer in it.

*Making Haste Slowly.*

On the other hand, an Indiana member who has been rather fortunate, says: "The president is peculiarly situated and has to take into consideration so many things that the Indiana members do not think of. He is especially afraid of being considered ungrateful. He knows very well—and indeed who could be ignorant of it?—that in several of the old states there is a faction that is always ready to descend on him and another faction that has stood by him unflinchingly; that the former faction has counted on me to stand by him and the others to use me as a shield against the other."

"Now what shall he do? If he follows the regular recommendations to control him, he simply cements that his personal friends, and supporters in all these states shall be crushed. It is not in human nature to except him to do it. He is determined to go slow until he sees that all his friends are not left in a position to be injured, and, if for one day he blames him for it."

The correspondent could not notice that this particular member was no longer troubled by applicants for postoffices and was not surprised to learn that all those thought worth battering about were already secured. There is another curious feature of the situation. There are now four or five alleged Populists who are on the faculty counted the best kind of Democrats, and according to this same Indiana congressman the president is inclined to look favorably upon their claims.

It is also known that the president is growing more and more savagely untoward and is using all patience with the members who persist in bringing up the subject in the house. The introduction of and long debate on the latest Bland bill

he considers almost in the light of a personal grievance. In short, unless several reliable Democrats have misstated the facts the president is in a state of mind, and take it altogether, as the man in Franklin said, a president's life is not a happy one.

Detroit Woman Swindled Out of Her Machine Attracts Attention.

BELMONT, Mich., Feb. 22.—Clad in a calico garment, with a faded shawl wrapped about her head, Mrs. Eliza Snook, a poor widow, took her stand yesterday directly in front of the city hall with a large bell, which she rang continuously.

At the same time she displayed a large sign to the effect that a local justice and by brutal legal process, taken her sewing machine, her only support, from her, and returned it to the company from which she purchased it, and on which she had remitted to the company \$125.

All day long she rang the bell, and in long tows demanded that the amount she had paid for the machine, \$60.00, be returned to her. At 10 o'clock yesterday morning she promised this would return this morning, and continue the ding dong until she recovered the machine or her money.

**BOLD SANDBAGGERS.**

Four Colored Men Knock Down Col. Douglass of Willard.

THEY ROB HIM OF HIS PURSE

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